Suicides by farmers in Haryana and Punjab

†21. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers in the country who have committed suicide during last two years;

(b) the number of such farmers of Haryana and Punjab who have committed suicide;

(c) whether the dependents of such deceased farmers of Haryana and Punjab are being given any special package on the lines of Vidarbha by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether any plan is proposed/under consideration of Government to prevent such suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A Statement based on the information furnished by the State Governments showing State-wise information on suicide by farmers is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) to (f) No, Sir. The Special Rehabilitation Package is being implemented in 31 Districts of four States *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, since high number of suicides were reported in these Districts. However, Government are addressing the problems of the farmers through different Programmes and Schemes. Government are also having a credit policy in place to increase flow of institutional credit to Agriculture Sector and to provide relief to the farmers as per the Policy. Further, the rate of interest on crop loans upto Rs. 3 lakh has been reduced to 7% per annum.

Statement

Cases of suicide by farmers in States

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2005	632
		2006	448
		2007	114
2.	Karnataka	2005-06	163
		2006-07	320
		2007-08 (up to 10.07.2007)	73
3.	Maharashtra	2005	577
		2006	2329
		2007 (upto February 2007)	239

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)
4.	Kerala	2001 to 2006	841
		2007 (upto 31st January, 2007)	13
5.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2007 (upto March 2007)	26
6.	Punjab*	2004	11
		2005	6
7.	Gujarat*	2005	7
		2006 (upto 30.05.2006)	1

* This information reported *vide* Government of Punjab letter dt. 21.03.06 relates to the cotton belt of Punjab. Government of Punjab has also reported that number of suicides by farmers due to debt burden in the year 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 was 2, nil, 3 and 3 respectively. However, upto date data regarding suicide is awaited from the Governments of Punjab and Gujarat.

NB: The Nil report has been received from the States/UTs namely, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Goa, Haryana, Delhi, Sikkim, J & K, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar. The information from rest of the States/UTs is awaited.

Hiring tuna training boats

22. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET) to hire tuna training boats from Norway and other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many people would be trained on hired tuna boat in a year;

(d) whether it would be cheaper to send Indian youths for training abroad at much lower costs; and

(e) the steps proposed to study the costs of training with hired boats, etc. by CIFNET?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Decline in fish catches

23. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large population of fishermen who obtain fish catches from rivers in India;